



# Waiaatarua Community News

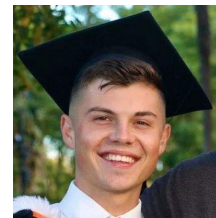
850 copies

May 2021

## Meet your new WRRRA Executive Committee—Part 2

### Matt Smith—Treasurer and Hall Hire bookings

I've lived in Waiaatarua my whole life and I hold a heavy passion for volunteering and helping out the community where I can. When I'm not out hiking in the Waitakere ranges or helping those in need with local fire brigade duties, I'm dealing with the day to day finances and working closely with the other WRRRA board members. After recently graduating and joining Ernst & Young as an audit associate, it was a clear cut choice for me to put my hand forward when the opportunity arose to get stuck in and help with the Treasurer role.



At a young age, I already have a great deal of experience with financial management roles that span from local start up projects to working with global Fortune 500 listed companies. I'm looking forward to working alongside our committee members and helping drive changes that will create positive impacts within our community.

### Grant Longley—Waiaatarua Librarian

Resident of Waiaatarua for the past 35 years, volunteer at our library and representative of the library on the WRRRA. Active at the Oratia Bowling Club, Western Auckland Stamp Club, Auckland Philatelic Society, Waiaatarua Community Patrol, deliverer of library books to "home-bound" persons for Auckland Libraries.



### Rita Steel—Environment Portfolio

Born and bred in the city, I moved out west as soon as I left home, living in Piha to be by the surf and slowly making my way back closer to town. I've lived here since 2006 and am controversially on the border of Oratia and Waiaatarua. As a self-confessed "townie", I was scared of my backyard for the first 5 years, so stayed away. Eventually I discovered that I not only had quite a large backyard, but that wasps, weeds and fallen down trees had taken it over. Determined to see natives thriving again (and create a low maintenance garden) my boyfriend and I set about restoring the land. Almost 10 years later and I think we've created a perfect place to raise our 2 children. I initially wanted to help others similar to me (no idea what they were getting into) fuelled with my passion for the environment and sustainability, so I joined the Waiaatarua R&R and created an environmental portfolio. I am a huge advocate for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area and believe we have a special duty as residents of such a unique place. I have an environmental science degree and am particularly interested in ecology and environmental economics. This year in my role at the WRRRA I have a significant number of goals and initiatives. If you'd like to know more about this year's plan, help out in any way, sign up to any of these projects or raise any concerns my email address is [sciencemademedit@gmail.com](mailto:sciencemademedit@gmail.com).



### On the ground

Community weeding bees - 2 in 2021 (Autumn and Spring). Peter Casey, WRRRA Committee member, will be running these.

Seedling reserve launch in 2021 for first planting in 2022

Resource bank for residents launch in late 2021

Expert drop in times (arborists, plant experts etc) - 1 in 2021

Trap Library - hold 4 in 2021, grow to 60 members by end of 2021

Develop the *Last Line of Defence* pest plan and present AGM 2022

Expand trap library resources; chew cards, live trap and a Wasp Weekend for early 2022

### Education and advocacy

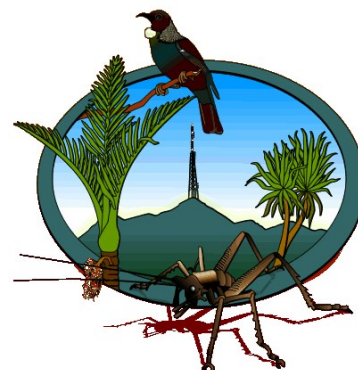
Regular Legislative submissions with feedback to R&R and community

New resident packs

Education for local real estate agents on Septic Tanks, SEAs etc

WIPs with CRRA, local board and council biodiversity team, Ecomatters etc

Ecosystem Monitoring (including results for NZ Bird survey, kereru count)



*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association*

**Contact Us**  
**Editor:** Erin Kingsleigh-Smith Phone: 021 355 009 Email: [editor@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiaatarua.org.nz)  
**WRRRA President:** Thomas Hoey Phone: 027 585 1486 Email: [president@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiaatarua.org.nz)  
**Community Hall and Library:** 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353  
**Hall hire bookings:** Matt Smith Phone: 021 059 3467 Email: [hallhire@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:hallhire@waiaatarua.org.nz)  
**Library hours:** Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm  
Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm  
**website:** [www.waiaatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiaatarua.org.nz)

## Nolas Housing Development

As part of my role and as a resident I am one of many in the area with concerns about the scale of the development happening at the site of the Nolas land down by the Parrs Park roundabout.

For those of you that don't know, the land was rezoned two years ago (under the Unitary plan) to residential/single housing (a house on a 600sm site). This re-zoning had many of us feed into it, through a democratic process. This plan is also what the Auckland Council have used as the basis for the city's growth including setting appropriate budgets for that growth (i.e. New Lynn has received huge township upgrades to meet the growth there). A developer has recently bought the Nolas land, and is using the Government's COVID recovery Fast Track process (designed to create jobs) to circumvent the usual Resource Management Act process to push through a very large development akin to a small township. The plan is for around 247 2,3 and 4 bedroom townhouses (a mix of 2 and 3 stories), housing approx 800 people (vs the current zoning for around 200 people with 60-100 homes). There has been some debate in the R&R whether this is something we should be concerned about or involved in opposing as it is outside the boundary of Waiatarua. I argue yes, because many of us drive that way (and the congestion will become problematic for us, especially as the Council has no money for upgrades that will be needed feeding 250 additional cars into the area), it also affects those of us who have children, as Oratia Primary (the school for which the development is in zone) is already at capacity, and its



growth is limited by WRHA Act. There is also the feeling that there isn't enough greenspace for the additional people, given that Parrs Park is already heavily utilised. Those of us who oppose this aren't opposing a development *per se* - it's a great location for homes. We are, however, opposing the way it's being done (behind closed doors with no input from locals - even the Council are relatively shut out - with only a panel of 3-4 people appointed by central government). Please write to MPs David Parker and Carmel Sepuloni asking for local voices to be heard! Email: Carmel.Sepuloni@parliament.govt.nz, David.Parker@parliament.govt.nz. Both can be written to at Parliament Office, Private Bag 18888, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160

Rita Steel

## Fire Brigade News

Greetings from your Volunteer Fire Brigade. The good news is that, at the time of writing this, we have had only one call out, a multi vehicle crash on Piha Road, attended by several of the local volunteer brigades.

We had a great time at the Oratia School Fair and hope those of you who came to see us either had your picture taken in the Fire Truck, knocked down some cones with the hose, went through the playhouse, witnessed the kitchen fire demonstration, had some fun AND learnt a bit more about safety at home, as well as raising money for our lovely local school.

It is now open fire season, but you should still check on checksalright.nz (or 0800 658 628) before lighting any outside fires. Also, if you have not had your chimney swept recently, it might pay to have that done before lighting any inside fires this winter.

And finally, just a couple of reminders:

- Did you check your smoke detectors when daylight saving finished?

- If you are interested in being a part of the Fire Brigade, we are always open to new members. Remember you don't have to be a firefighter, there are other ways to contribute. Just use the contact details below.
- Gareth, Jacob & Lorna are taking part in the Sky Tower Stair Challenge on 22 May to raise money for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ. You can support them on:

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/garethwilson>

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/jacob-moolman>

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/lorna-biggam>

**Calls 1 March – 10 April 2021**

4 April – Motor Vehicle Crash, Piha Road

### Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. For anything else, please call Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505), Deputy Chief Officer Ian Ford (814 8871) or email Volunteer Brigade Support Christine Healy (Christine.healy@fireandemergency.nz)

## Locals Night at Elevation Brasserie

473 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua Second Friday of each month at 6.15pm

What better way to get together and get to know your neighbours than over dinner and a few drinks? Everyone pays for themselves, but the good folk at Elevation can offer great prices. The next dinner will be held on **Friday 14 May**. To RSVP, and for more information, please phone Carol Longley on 814 9855 or 0274 814 500. Hope to see you there!



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## Elevation Open Mic Night

A new open mic night has started up at **Elevation Brasserie, 473 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua.**

The event is being run by Glen Eden singer/songwriter, Fiona McEwen, who formerly ran a successful open mic event at Elevation from September 2009 until February 2011, and Waiatarua-based singer/songwriter, Paula Feather.

Attracting local original singer/songwriters, musicians and poets, you can expect to see some well-known acts as well as young up-and-coming performers.

Held the 3rd Friday of every month, the next event will be on **Friday 21 May from 6.30 to 9.00 pm.** Free entry. Food and drinks specials. Prizes for performers.

To book a spot to perform, please email [elevationopenmic@hotmail.com](mailto:elevationopenmic@hotmail.com). PA, mics, stands and leads provided.

Table bookings are highly recommended - email [info@elevationbrasserie.co.nz](mailto:info@elevationbrasserie.co.nz)

For more information please Like the Elevation Open Mic Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ionOpenMic> or email [elevationopenmic@hotmail.com](mailto:elevationopenmic@hotmail.com)



## Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiatarua.org.nz), ph 814 8856. Community Notices are free to current financial members.

**Doers Networks:** local, fast internet providers [info@doers.net.nz](mailto:info@doers.net.nz)

**Handyman Out West:** Any work undertaken. House and property maintenance, renovation and decoration eg gutter cleaning, water blasting, deck building, tree felling, painting etc. Reliable and friendly. Ph Mike 814 9708

**Indoor Bowls:** every Thursday at the Hall 7pm for 7.15pm start. No experience needed. Coffee and tea provided. \$3 donation to CPNZ. Ph Celia: 814 9660 or Liz: 814 9688

**Lawn mowing, ride on work only:** Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 814 9493 mob 021 024 75610

**Oratia Community Church:** On the corner of Parker & West Coast Rds. Fellowship meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the church hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

**Plants, crafts etc:** Various plants, shrubs and bromeliads. Assorted crafts, scarves, net fruit bags \$2, occasional cards, knitting, sewing, second hand books. All proceeds to Nepalese Educ Trust for Tertiary Scholarships. Phone Margaret 814 9859.

**Table Tennis:** every Wednesday in the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week Contact Tony 814 9860, email [tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz)

**Tiler / Stone layer:** 21 years experience in the trade available for indoor and outdoor projects large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021 610 408.

**Waiatarua Playcentre:** Come and have 3 free visits at our bush-nestled Playcentre. We are child led, parent run and full of fun! Open 9:30am - 12:30pm Mon and Weds. Contact Ronni O'Brien 09 814 8835 or [waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz) or [www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre](http://www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre)

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**Yovi's Topstitch:** Alterations or sewing projects I can do at your budget, from cushions, squabs etc. Contact Yovi 021 084 36450 or [yovistopstitch12@gmail.com](mailto:yovistopstitch12@gmail.com)

## Friday nights at the Oratia Bowling Club



It's all happening at the bowler! Photo: Diarmuid Kingsleigh-Smith

Serving nachos, a variety of toasties and a vege stack everyone in my family was happily catered for. Oh, and did I mention the cheapest beer and wine I've ever seen? The place was packed by 6pm and I got to meet loads of people I had only seen in passing at school drop offs.

The club members are looking to inject some new life in the place. With events throughout winter it gives us a great opportunity to support the club and maybe even renovate the green.

My partner has his eyes very much set on making the first year leaderboard. The club is open most Friday nights so look out for the sign outside. We will be coming back!

Rita Steel

After driving past for years, I was excited to see Friday nights were open to the public at the Oratia Bowling Club. My partner and bravely took our two under 5s for an early dinner and quick bowl. And were extremely excited to discover a thriving club with walls rich in Oratia history.

## Library News

We have now received some new books for the library. Here is a selection:

David Baldacci	<i>Daylight</i>
Lee Child	<i>The Sentinel</i>
Ben Sanders	<i>The Devils You Know</i>
Lynda La Plante	<i>Cold Shoulder</i>
Ian Rankin	<i>Tooth and Nail</i>
Kate Quin	<i>The Rose Code</i>

Janet Skeslien Charles *The Paris Library*  
JD Robb *Faithless in Death*

With the winter weather on the way, it's a good idea to get a few books from us so you can always have a good read and forget the cold outside.

We have also received a new variety of books from the Auckland Library which are also available to borrow.

Barbara Field

## Quote of the Month

*"Finding yourself isn't the goal, you know who you are and what you want, you're just too afraid of actually being that person."*

*no, finding yourself isn't the goal... but being yourself should be."*

**JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Copy needs to be with the Editor**

**by 5pm on FRIDAY 14 MAY**



## Friday Night is Locals Night (after 5pm)

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## Environmental corner

I'm so excited to see the Biocontrol for tradescantia has made its way to the Waitakeres with the Ecomatters team spotting them on Bush road! This little beetle from South America has been vigorously tested to ensure it won't do damage to anything other than tradescantia (which is also from that region). So hopefully you will see some nibbles out of yours!! Remember tradescantia does well on the edges of the bush so as your weed gets eaten by the beetle a new clearing will be created - perfect for other plant growth (often another type of weed). If you plant it with a native you will have less weeding to do



long term. Have a look at my plant of the month for an option.

### Plant of the month

If you're looking for a hardy ground cover, Coprosma Repes has fast become a favourite at my house. Unfortunately not locally sourced, I did get a lot from Rogers for \$2 and utilised it on banks and other shady spots where we have failed to establish other plants. In fact we have planted it in the places tradescantia used to be. It's glossy and bright green so looks beautiful and keeps invasive weeds at bay - win all round!



Rita Steel

Thanks to Ecomatters for the tradescantia beetle photo.

## Waiatarua Community Patrol News

With the change in season comes wet and challenging conditions on our windy, narrow roads. Please take extra care, be patient and keep those speeds down.

If you are out walking, make sure you are wearing highly visible (preferably reflective) clothing and walk (wherever it is possible and logical) on the side facing the oncoming traffic. This is particularly important on our roads without footpaths. I have personally seen a number of people out walking recently in very dark clothing and with their backs to the traffic (and on dangerous corners) - who don't even look around when a car approaches.

The approach of winter however doesn't stop our patrollers getting out in the community on regular patrols. Two of our members this week assisted a very grateful gentleman at Arataki carpark in the rain with his flat battery and in March we re-deployed a patrol from our area to Titirangi to help with the search for a missing person.

We have had some great feedback from the public recently - including one elderly man in Glen Eden advising our patrol that he felt reassured and safe seeing our team out and about.

### Our Activities

10 patrols during February and March (impacted by Alert Level changes and Easter)

Reported incidents: mainly rubbish this month (although patrollers have been reporting an improvement in this - which is great to hear).



Assisting with the Oratia School crossing in the morning

Attended the Kumeu Show to promote the organisation (along with the Henderson and NorWest Community Patrols)

### Police Contacts to Remember

111 - Emergency

105 - non-emergency (incident already happened & don't need urgent assistance). Or online [105.police.govt.nz](https://www.police.govt.nz)

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 - Report crime anonymously, or online [crimestoppers-nz.org/report](https://www.crimestoppers-nz.org/report)

\*555 (from mobile phone) - urgent but not life-threatening driving incidents

Stay safe...and warm!

Contact Sue Dell, Patrol Co-ordinator / Chairman ([waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz](mailto:waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz) / 021 681 207) for more information.

## Waitakere Forest & Bird - 2021 Lecture series

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm

Catherine Meyer - University of Auckland - The life of Pilot Whales in New Zealand.

While pilot whales are most commonly known for their tendency to mass strand in NZ (and around the world), Catherine's study focused on gaining some insight into the lives of these animals when they are at-sea. She used a data set spanning 16 years to study long-finned pilot whales in NZ waters, mainly from the Bay of Islands

area, collected by researchers who were out looking for other ocean critters and also by commercial tour boats in the area, with some data also coming from tour operators on the Kaikoura coast. Her project focused on using photo-identification methodology to build the first photo-ID dorsal fin catalogue for long-finned pilot whales in NZ, using these photos to then investigate the social structure of the species and also document their interactions with other delphinids (mainly oceanic bottlenose dolphins).

Venue: Kelston Community Centre, cnr Awaroa/Great North Rd. Non members welcome, join us for supper afterwards. Koha appreciated to cover hall hire. For further information ph Liz 0274 762732, [lizanstey@hotmail.com](mailto:lizanstey@hotmail.com)

## Stories from the Past

### Waiatarua Boarding House

Frederick Judson was an interesting character who originally purchased land at Nihotupu, on the right side of Piha Road off the area of Ian Wells Track, though he built a house on land owned by William Evans near the Nihotupu Falls which were on the south side of today's Piha Road, below the



carpark. Judson was part of a family which emigrated to the failed settlement of Albertland, on the south side of the Kaipara. Frederick married his cousin Marian Edger, the eldest daughter of Samuel Edger who was the religious leader at Albertland. The Edgers and Judsons were musical, intellectual and progressive in many matters including equality of the sexes. Marian's sister, Kate, was the first woman in the British Empire to gain a Bachelor of Arts at a university.

When they moved to Auckland from Albertland, Fred was a pharmacist and Marian Judson ran a school for girls. Both were involved in temperance and the Anti-Poverty League. Both were also theosophists, a system of spiritual beliefs based on the occult and eastern and western religions, believing in reincarnation and universal brotherhood. At first the Judsons farmed at Nihotupu, with Fred helped by his nephew, Stanley Judson, later to become famous for earning a VC for bravery during WWI. The locals referred to Fred as "The Grey Fox" for his habit for digging cool holes in banks and sitting in them and one local described him as having "long grey hair and a faraway look in his eyes."

In 1905 Fred had his house and land of 361 acres taken off him by act of parliament as it was needed for Auckland's water supply. He moved up to land at the junction of today's Scenic Drive and Piha Road, and built the Waiatarua Boarding House. In fact, it was Fred who gave the area the name "Waiatarua" – "Song of two waters"

which referenced the views of both harbours. It is said this name was bestowed by a Maori workman building the boarding house. (The name was gazetted in 1967). The boarding house was large, with 30 rooms and a dining room where the fire was kept burning day and night. Down in the bush was secondary accommodation called "The Bungalow" and a night-time attraction was glow-worms in the bush. It was popular as a stopping off place for people on their way to the coast and also a health resort for Aucklanders who wanted to enjoy the clean, mountain air.



Marian was away much of the time, with their daughter Dora, who was studying music, or in India with her sister Lilian, who led the theosophy centre at Adyar, India. Stan Judson and his wife Ethel ran the boarding house, while their children attended Oratia School, as Stan had as a boy. Ethel kept this up while Stan was away serving in the war. Fred retired to a house he built next door, which in recent years was a derelict landmark at the intersection before being pulled down.

After the Judsons gave up running the boarding house it was managed by the Gascoignes, then the Wises, he being a returned serviceman who started a branch of the RSA at Waiatarua.

Fred Judson died in 1931 and his daughter Dora inherited the property. In 1938 the land and boarding house were sold and developed into flats. Finally, the Judsons' boarding house was converted into the Dutch Kiwi Inn which was a go-to night-club and reception lounge for Westies in the 1960s. In 1970 it burned down, bringing to an end the era of the Judsons' connection to Waiatarua, although perhaps that didn't finally end till Fred's house was demolished a couple of years ago.

*Sandra Coney*

*Top left: Waiatarua Boarding House, Auckland Libraries*

*Top right: Photo of Fred standing*

*Above, left: Frederick Judson in the Waiatarua Boarding House, Song of Two Waters, Jeanne Wade*

## From the Editor

My family and I spent a happy weekend recently in Nelson for my brother's 70th and sister-in-law's 65th birthdays. Quite a few of us in my extended family attended from Auckland. There are a lot of us, and it's hard to get everyone together, so these days it tends to be significant birthdays or funerals when we all see each other. It absolutely poured with rain but it didn't matter. It was just so good to get out of Auckland and re-connect with family, and helped me to forget these very strange and uncertain times in which we all now find ourselves, even if only for a short time.

In last month's newsletter I talked about the area where I live, and how at one time it was going to be a subdivision called Prospect Heights. On further investigation and studying the images in a copy of the original sales brochure (thanks to Margaret Marshall for this) it appears that my side of West Coast Rd between Rimu Rd and Raroa Tce was not actually part of that subdivision and was probably either just farmland or bush. However, here is an image from that brochure which is looking up West Coast Rd, just past my place. You can see the large rimu which is still standing outside No. 849, and the Red Shed a little further on. Isn't it amazing how this dirt track in the countryside has become the busy road we know so well today.

I also have a scanned image from the brochure which waxes lyrical about the subdivision and urging people to purchase land, unfortunately I didn't have room to include it in this issue. Hopefully next month.



*Cheers, Erin*